

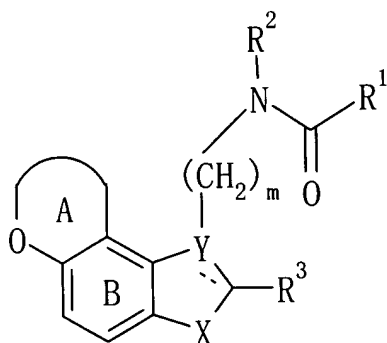
## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

### Claim 1 (Cancelled)

Claim 2 (**Currently Amended**): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 1 ~~containing~~ comprising a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, ~~and a fatty acid ester, a polyhydric alcohol and a nonionic surfactant~~ lauric diethanolamide or a compound including the same.

Claim 3 (**Original**): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 2, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is a compound having a melatonin ML<sub>1</sub> receptor agonist activity.

Claim 4 (**Currently Amended**): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 1 ~~17~~, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein, R<sup>1</sup> represents an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted amino group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

R<sup>2</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group;

R<sup>3</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

X represents CHR<sup>4</sup>, NR<sup>4</sup>, O or S in which R<sup>4</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group;

Y represents C, CH or N, provided that when X is CH<sub>2</sub>, Y is C or CH;

\_\_\_\_\_ represents a single bond or a double bond;  
----- represents a single bond or a double bond;

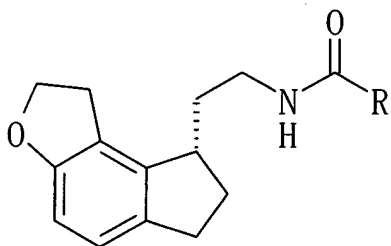
ring A represents an optionally substituted, 5- to 7-membered oxygen-containing heterocyclic ring;

ring B represents an optionally substituted benzene ring; and

m represents an integer of 1 to 4;

or a salt thereof.

**Claim 5 (Currently Amended):** The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 1 17, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein, R represents a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group.

**Claim 6 (Currently Amended):** The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 1 17, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is (S)-N-[2-(1,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno[5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]propionamide.

**Claim 7 (Currently Amended):** The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 1 17, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is (S)-N-[2-(1,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno[5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]acetamide.

**Claim 8 (Currently Amended):** The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 1 17, wherein the fatty acid ester is an ester of a carboxylic acid having 6 to 22 carbon atoms and an alkyl alcohol having 1 to 12 carbon atoms.

Claim 9 (**Currently Amended**): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim + 17, wherein the fatty acid ester is isopropyl myristate, isopropyl palmitate, butyl myristate, or diethyl sebacate.

Claim 10 (**Currently Amended**): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim + 17, wherein the fatty acid ester is isopropyl myristate.

Claim 11 (**Currently Amended**): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim + 17, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, 1,3-butylene glycol, glycerin or polyethylene glycol.

Claim 12 (**Currently Amended**): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim + 17, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is ~~propyleneglycol~~ propylene glycol.

Claim 13 (**Currently Amended**): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim + 17, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is polyethylene glycol.

Claim 14 (**Currently Amended**): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim + 17, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is polyethylene glycol having a molecular weight of about 200 to about 1000.

Claims 15-16 (**Cancelled**)

Claim 17 (**Currently Amended**): ~~A~~ The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 16, wherein the fatty acid amide is comprising a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, lauric diethanolamide or a compound including the same, and optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters and polyhydric alcohols.

Claim 18 (**Cancelled**)

Claim 19 (**Currently Amended**): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 1 ~~containing~~ comprising (S)-N-[2-(1,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno[5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]propionamide, isopropyl myristate, ~~polyethyleneglycol~~ polyethylene glycol and lauric diethanolamide.

Claim 20 (**Currently Amended**): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 1 ~~containing~~ comprising (S)-N-[2-(1,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno[5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]acetamide, isopropyl myristate, ~~polyethyleneglycol~~ polyethylene glycol and lauric diethanolamide.

Claim 21 (**Currently Amended**): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 1 ~~17~~ which is a skin plaster.

Claim 22 (**Currently Amended**): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 1 ~~17 containing in a skin contact member a~~ , wherein the compound having a the melatonin receptor agonist activity and , the lauric diethanolamide or the compound including the same, and the optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters, and polyhydric alcohols and nonionic surfactants , are contained in a skin contact member.

Claim 23 (**Currently Amended**): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 22 ~~containing in a skin contact member~~ , wherein the a compound having a the melatonin receptor agonist activity, and a fatty acid ester, a polyhydric alcohol and a nonionic surfactant the lauric diethanolamide or the compound including the same, are contained in the skin contact member.

Claim 24 (**Currently Amended**): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 22 ~~containing in~~ , wherein the a skin contact member, an comprises about 1 to about 30% by weight of fatty acid ester with respect to a the weight of the skin contact member.

Claim 25 (**Currently Amended**) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 22 ~~containing in~~, wherein the a skin contact member, ~~an~~ comprises about 1 to about 30% by weight of polyhydric alcohol with respect to a the weight of the skin contact member.

Claim 26 (**Currently Amended**): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 22 ~~containing in~~, wherein the a skin contact member, ~~an~~ comprises about 1 to about 15% by weight of ~~nonionic surfactant~~ lauric diethanolamide with respect to a the weight of the skin contact member.

Claim 27 (**Currently Amended**): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 22 ~~containing in~~, wherein the a skin contact member; ~~includes~~ an adhesive agent.

Claim 28 (**Currently Amended**): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim ~~22~~ 27, wherein the adhesive agent is an acrylic adhesive agent.

Claim 29 (**Currently Amended**): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 22 ~~containing in~~, wherein the a skin contact member; ~~comprises an~~ about 0.01 to about 70% by weight of the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity with respect to a the weight of the skin contact member.

Claim 30 (**Currently Amended**): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim ~~22~~ 27 ~~containing in~~, wherein the a skin contact member; ~~comprises~~ ~~an~~ about 5 to about 99% by weight of the adhesive agent with respect to a the weight of the skin contact member.

Claim 31 (**Currently Amended**): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 22, ~~wherein a content of~~ which comprises about 0.01 to about 100 mg/cm<sup>2</sup> of the compound having a the melatonin receptor agonist activity per unit skin contact surface of a the skin contact member is about 0.01 to about 100 mg/cm<sup>2</sup>.

Claim 32 (**Currently Amended**): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 22 ~~containing in a~~, wherein the skin contact member, further comprises a filler.

Claim 33 (**Original**): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 32, wherein the filler is silicon dioxide.

Claim 34 (**Cancelled**)

Claim 35 (**Currently Amended**): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 1 17 which maintains an effective concentration of the compound having a the melatonin receptor agonist activity in blood for about 6 hours to about 12 hours.

Claim 36 (**Currently Amended**): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 1 17 which maintains an effective concentration of the compound having a the melatonin receptor agonist activity in blood until about 1 to about 2 hours before waking up.

Claim 37 (**Currently Amended**): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 1 17, wherein an effective blood concentration of the compound having a the melatonin receptor agonist activity exhibits a one peak pattern within 12 hours after administration.

Claim 38 (**Currently Amended**): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 37, wherein a ~~peak of~~ the effective blood concentration of the compound having a the melatonin receptor agonist activity ~~appears~~ peaks within about 10 hours after administration.

Claim 39 (**Currently Amended**): A ~~preventive and therapeutic~~ method of treating diseases related to melatonin, ~~characterized by which comprises~~ administering a the percutaneous absorption preparation ~~which contains a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, and one or more members selected from fatty acid esters, polyhydric alcohols and nonionic surfactants~~ according to claim 17 to a patient with a melatonin related disease.

Claim 40 (**Currently Amended**): A method for percutaneous absorption method of a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, which comprises administering wherein the ~~the~~ percutaneous absorption preparation ~~contains a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity and one or more members selected from fatty acid esters, polyhydric alcohols and nonionic surfactants~~ according to claim 17 to a patient with a melatonin related disease.

Claim 41 (**Cancelled**)

Claim 42 (**New**): The method according to claim 39, wherein the percutaneous absorption preparation is affixed between about 6 hours before bedtime to just before bedtime.